



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 23, 2007

Faith Sharing

Readings and Questions for the Weekend of December 30

Feast of the Holy Family

Listen to the Word

What one word or thought in this reading really strikes you? What overall sense of the Christian life do you get from this reading?

Theme

We honor the relationships between parents and children.

Look Into Your Life

Question for Children: When is it the hardest for you to obey your parents?

Question for Youth: Joseph listens to the angels in his dreams who ask him to care for and protect his family. What does your family do together to support one another?

Question for Adults: We are invited to let the Word of Christ dwell within us and direct our daily lives. Which one of the life-style suggestions in this reading speaks most loudly to you?

Monday December 24

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Vigil

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 89: 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

Office Closed

4:30 p.m. – Children's Liturgy

Intention: For the children of the world

Ministry Schedule

Bread Baker: Becky Wentz

Altar Servers: Korry & Brett Beyer, Kerry & Shannon Wilson

Blood: Judy & Caitlin Wilson, Lorinda Collings, John Wang

Body: Walt Wilson

Lectors: Cathy Wang, Reeny Wilson

Sacristans: Patty & Charlie Cresalia

Ushers: Jayme & Reggie Hunt

12:00 a.m. – Midnight Liturgy

Intention: For world peace

Ministry Schedule

Altar Servers: Sarah Cresalia, Bethany, Hannah & Elijah Ehresmann

Blood: Mary & Brad Blauvelt, Beth-Anne & Jessica Ferley

Body: Walt Wilson

Lectors: Beth-Anne & Jessica Ferley

Sacristans: John & Cathy Wang

Ushers: Bette Stebbins, Kevin Conway

Tuesday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

Office Closed

9:00 a.m. – Christmas Liturgy

Intention: For the OLBH community & the repose of Cheryl Rohl

Ministry Schedule

Altar Servers: Katie Strand, Jacqui Osnes, Matthew & Christopher Van Asma
Blood: Joni Osnes, Stephanie Strand, Betsy & Tom Van Asma

Body: Walt Wilson

Lectors: Joni Osnes, David Strand

Sacristans: Ken & Kathy Van Asma

Ushers: Diane Clarke, Dorothy Tinnell

Wednesday, December 26

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17; Matthew 10:17-22

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours

5:30 p.m. – Daily Liturgy

Intention: For the sexually abused

Thursday, December 27

1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1-8

8:00 a.m. – Daily Liturgy

Intention: The repose of Bob Biegler

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours

Friday, December 28

1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7-8; Matthew 2:13-18

8:00 a.m. – Daily Liturgy

Intention: For those who preach the Gospel

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours

Saturday, December 29

1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-3, 5b-6; Luke 2:22-35

8:00 a.m. – Daily Liturgy

Intention: Improved health of Greg Biegler

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Food Pantry

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. – Women's Encounter

3:30 p.m. – Reconciliation

Feast of the Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

5:00 p.m. – Liturgy of the Eucharist with Baptism of Bennett Kortan

Intention: For the health & peace of families

Ministry Schedule

Bread Baker: Suzanne Wilhelmi

Altar Servers: Joe Schulte, Jessica Schacher, Celena Sass

Blood: Joe Deaver, Bob Sass, Charlie Desmond, Ken Van Asma

Body: Kathy Van Asma

Lectors: Carrie Baker, Bob Sass

Sacristans: Linda & Joe Schacher

Ushers: Bernard & Loretta Wiehl

Choir: Lori Miller

Sunday, December 30

Feast of the Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

8:00 a.m. – Liturgy of the Eucharist

Intention: For the OLBH community

Ministry Schedule

Altar Servers: Dane, Hannah & Liam Schroeder

Blood: Donna Boner, Pat Suiter, Marty Quinn, Larry Williamson

Body: Kevin Rohrbach

Lectors: Pat Suiter, Tony Berendse

Sacristans: Frank & Donna Boner

Ushers: Stan Barber, Don Everson

Choir: Regina's Minstrels

9:15 a.m. – Coffee Hour

10:30 a.m. – Liturgy of the Eucharist

Intention: For the repose of Charley Cimburek

Ministry Schedule

Altar Servers: Whitney Werdel, Austin & Kaleah Evans

Blood: Rose Williamson, Denise McCormick, Brad Blauvelt, John Usera

Body: Bernadette Usera

Lectors: Rose Williamson, James Pulaski

Sacristans: The Blauvelt Family

Ushers: James Pulaski, Rob Varilek

Choir: Lori Miller

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. – OLBH Volunteer Christmas Party

Sparks from Fr. Mark

Gospel of Matthew Part V

At the heart of Jesus' teaching is "the kingdom of heaven"—a pious way of referring to "the kingdom of God." The theme of the kingdom is literally the center of Jesus' preaching: In his third of five sermons in chapter 13, all of the parables concern the kingdom. This sermon is surrounded by passages of conflict. In chapters 11 and 12 there is a series of conflicts in which Jesus is rejected by the Pharisees and his own family. After this sermon Jesus goes to his home town, where he is also rejected (13:55-58). To choose the kingdom of heaven may put one at odds with family, neighbors, and even co-religionists. Yes, the claims of the kingdom outweigh all others, for the way of the kingdom is the way of God. The kingdom is the center—both theologically and structurally—of Matthew's portrayal of Jesus.

Matthew in the Lectionary

While all Scriptures are inspired and beneficial for a wide variety of purposes, the liturgical proclamation of the Word is more narrowly focused. One goal of the lectionary is to make available to the faithful the riches of the Scriptures. The lectionary attempts to present the distinctive features of each Gospel and to avoid undue repetition. Thus, the lectionary incorporates many of Matthew's unique contributions to the readings for Sundays and solemnities: the infancy narratives (Advent/Christmas season), his version of the Beatitudes (5:1-12), two stories involving Peter that are recorded only in Matthew: Peter's attempt to walk on water (14:22-28); and Jesus' founding of his church on Peter's confession of faith (16:13-20), and all the parables which are unique to Matthew. In this way the riches of the Gospel are made available to the community gathered for worship.

Another purpose for the lectionary is to present the Word of God in such a way as to invite people to enter more deeply into the dying and rising of Jesus Christ. Thus, the lectionary is selective in the passages it proclaims from the Gospel of Matthew. Less than half of Matthew is found in the Sunday lectionary. Moreover, some of the literary figures key to understanding Matthew are omitted. For example, all five ending formulas which mark the five sermons are omitted. Three of the five sermons themselves are abridged. Only 52 to 60 percent of the first, second, and fourth sermons are in the lectionary. The third sermon (Sermon on the Parables) and the fifth sermon (Sermon on the End Times) are proclaimed in their entirety. The tensions between Jews and Christians are so crucial to understanding Matthew's context, yet they do not figure prominently in the lectionary. For example, the woes against the Scribes and Pharisees (chapter 23), are omitted, as are other conflicts.

Peace, Fr. Mark

Source: *Living Liturgy: Spirituality, Celebration, and Catechesis for Sunday and Solemnities, 2008.* (Liturgical Press: Collegeville MN, 2008)

Prayer List

Names will remain on the prayer list for one month. Please contact the office if continued prayers are needed.

Improved Health: Joe Creek, Frank Keller, Helen Barber, Grant Coffin, Mary Kay Young, Sharon Long, Cliff Meyer, Gertrude Bessie, George Senn, Dorothy Norman, Jim Raba, Karen Weyrich, Greg Biegler, Dorothy Roseland, Missy Jorgensen, Cindy Thompson, Gladys Doyle, Greg Biegler, Shirley Little Thunder

Repose: Mike Cariveau, Bob Biegler, Craig Reagle, Wilmer Zvonek, Connie Kinsman, Gene Inman & Violet "Bobbie" Welling



Stewardship December 15 & 16

Loose	\$1,561.56
Envelopes	\$1,750.00
Votive	\$4.50
Student	\$60.40
Cookbook Sales	\$1,171.15
Other	\$235.00
Total	\$4,800.61

"The Nativity" Movie

Sunday, December 23, at 11:30, join us for a soup lunch and watch the movie downstairs in dinning room. You may bring a snack to share if you wish.

Live Nativity

The traditional OLBH Live Nativity will be held before and after the 8:00 & 10:30 Masses December 30. If your children would like to participate, please have them sign up in the gathering area or call Teresa at 787-5168.



Thanks to all who contributed Christmas gifts for the seniors. They have all been delivered to the nursing facility. God bless you for your charity!

Prayer Blanket Delivery

January 4 at 6:00 p.m., we will be delivering the prayer blankets we made at Gatherings of Grace. Parishioners of all ages are welcome to come along. Please call if you can come also call if you can drive. Meet at OLBH. Afterwards we will have hot chocolate.

Prayer Blanket Ministry

If you would be interested in making quilts for those who are seriously ill in our parish community, please contact the parish office at 787-5168 or send email to olbh@olbh.org. We would like to foster this ministry if our parish responds to this need.

OLBH Annual Volunteers Christmas Party

In appreciation for all the volunteers at OLBH, Fr. Mark and the staff invite you to a party in your honor on Sunday, December 30, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. here at OLBH. Let us thank you for the gifts you have given!



Gloves Hats Socks

The Peace and Justice ministry is asking for new gloves, hats, or warm socks, which will be presented as our gift of the Magi to families on the Standing Rock Reservation. They will be taken to the schools so children of all ages can have our warm wishes. Please leave your unwrapped gifts in the box in the gathering area by January 6.

Lenten Sacred Spaces & Recipes

Do you have a sacred space you go to, or a traditional meal you prepare during Lent? If so, Gatherings of Grace would like a photo of your sacred space or a copy of your Lenten recipe. You may drop them off in the office or email them to betsy@olbh.org by Sunday, January 6th.

Thanks to the Stewardship Committee and Fr. Mark for making the Single Spouses Hors d'oeuvres & Christmas Light Tour a wonderful evening!

There will be no First Friday Mass and Lunch with Bishop Cupich in January. Join the Bishop for Mass and Lunch on February 1.

Called to Carry Christ?

Those who are ill or suffering long for the love and presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Would you like to share your love of Eucharist by bringing Christ to patients at the hospital? You do not need a medical background. Training and support are provided. Ministers of Eucharist are especially needed for Sundays, but for other days as well. Scheduling is flexible and you may serve during the day or in the evening. For further information, contact Lisa at the Cathedral, 342-0507, ext. 201.

Level II Separated & Divorced Support Group, "Happiness is an Inside Job"

This is an eight-week, non-denominational support group using John Powell's book by the same name. The group is designed to help those who are separated or divorced to find new meaning and purpose in their lives. Previous Level I attendance is helpful but not required. Join us at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 10, at St. Therese's. The book and registration fee is \$38.00. For more information, call Family Life Ministries at 343-3541.

Bereavement Support Group

This is an eight-week, non-denominational support group for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. The group begins at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 28, at Blessed Sacrament Church in Rapid City. Please come early to register. For more information call Janece Rieman at 343-5547.

Christian Family Planning Seminar

Join us Saturday, January 19, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at St. Anthony's in Hot Springs. This is a requirement for engaged couples, and also an enriching learning experience for married

couples, or anyone wanting to know more about natural family planning. For more information, or to register, call Family Life Ministries at 343-3541.

Vocation Discernment Weekend January 4-6, 2008

Join the Little Sisters of the Poor in Palatine, Illinois for a weekend of prayer and reflection. Open to single women 18-35 years of age who want to explore the possibility of a religious vocation. There is no charge for the retreat, and funds for travel assistance are available. For information, call (847) 219-2430 or go to vocationinfo@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

Matching Grant for Masses for Life

The Diocesan Pro-Life Commission is again offering a matching grant, up to \$250, for donations made to the "Diocesan Masses for Life" program by December 31, 2007. Every day, throughout our Diocese, a mass is offered for respect and protection of all human life, from conception to natural death. This program arranges for these masses to be offered and pays the priests' stipends. Your donation allows you to assist with this spiritual endeavor. Please send your donation, marked "Masses for Life" by December 31, to Mary Mitchell, Treasurer, 113 Berry Pine Road, Rapid City, SD 57702.

For the Ride Home

By Ted Berg

Scripture

- The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14).
- Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord? One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain (Psalm 24:3-4).
- Descended from David ... but established as Son of God, through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 1:3-4).
- It is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her (Matthew 1:20).

Reflection

- Is Jesus born once or eternally into souls who seek him?
- What is essential for Jesus to be born in time?

"The Word became flesh" (John 1:14). This is what is of benefit to the faithful: that the Word comes to be in each one of us. For what good is it to me if the Word comes to dwell in the world, but I have no part in him?1

This absolute emptiness, this poverty, this obscurity holds within it the secret of all joy because it is full of God. To seek this emptiness is true devotion to the Mother of God. To find it is to find her. And to be hidden in its depths is to be full of God as she is full of Him, and to share her mission of bringing Him to all men.2

1 Origen, *Origen Spirit and Fire, A Thematic Anthology of His Writings*, translated by Hans Urs von Balthasar, (Washington, DC: The Catholic University Press), 186.

2 Merton, Thomas, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, (New York: New Directions, 1961), 174.